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LETTER DATED 12 FEBRUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and with reference to the letters from the Permanent Representative of Iran that were circulated in the documents mentioned hereunder, I should like to comment on the allegations made in those letters concerning violations by Iraq of the provisions of the cease-fire between the two countries.

1. Document S/1994/719 of 17 June 1994:

There is no truth to the allegations made in the document.

2. Document S/1994/726 of 20 June 1994:

Paragraph 14: This was a movement by a Port Authority boat.

Paragraph 18: No defensive positions were excavated or installed. All that happens is that rainwater is emptied out of the rest shelters from time to time.

There is no truth to the other allegations.

3. Document S/1994/753 of 25 June 1994:

There is no truth to the allegations made in the document.

4. Documents S/1995/122 of 7 February 1995 and S/1995/161 of 27 February 1995:

The boats mentioned in the documents were civilian craft (fishing boats).

It is not true that Iraqi helicopters flew over Faw and Ra's al-Bishah while inside the aerial exclusion zone.

The boats mentioned in the documents were civilian craft belonging to the Iraq Port Authority.

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With regard to document S/1995/122 of 7 February 1995 the following may be noted:

Paragraph 4: The vehicle belonged to the Border Police and was carrying authorized personnel.

Paragraph 17: The position is 1.5 kilometres away and the Border Force gathers there to receive supplies and not for purposes of observation or training.

Paragraph 23: No building was constructed. All that happened was that a number of roofed shelters were erected in preparation for winter.

Paragraph 29: They were civilian vehicles and carried a number of farm workers.

There is no truth to the other allegations made in the two documents.

5. Documents S/1995/189 of 8 March 1995 and S/1995/194 of 10 March 1995:

The boats mentioned in the documents were civilian fishing boats.

It is not true that Iraqi helicopters flew over Faw and Ra's al-Bishah while inside the aerial exclusion zone.

The boats mentioned in the documents were craft belonging to the Iraq Port Authority.

With regard to document S/1995/189 of 8 March 1995 the following may be noted:

Paragraph 10: The only communications facilities are those of the Border Police and they are located more that 2 kilometres from the boundary.

Paragraph 13: The movement of a lone border guard was not ascertained at all. It is not possible for such an isolated movement by the person moving to be regarded as a violation.

Paragraphs 18 and 23: The persons in question were from the Shirhani border post. There was no violation.

Paragraph 32: There was no firing by the Border Force.

There is no truth to the remaining allegations made in the two documents.

6. Document S/1995/219 of 25 March 1995:

Paragraph 4: The location mentioned is 1.5 kilometres inside our national territory at Shayb, and there was no such construction activity.

Paragraphs 5 and 7: There were no Iraqi flights whatever inside the aerial exclusion zone.

Paragraphs 10 and 13: There were fishing boats only. There were no patrols in the Shatt al-Arab.

Paragraph 12: There were no engineering activities in the area in question.

There is no truth to the other allegations made in the document.

7. Document S/1995/333 of 25 April 1995:

Paragraph 4: The road was closed in response to a prior Iranian violation in the same area.

Paragraph 10: There were no Iraqi flights whatever inside the aerial exclusion zone.

Paragraph 19: There were no engineering activities in the area in question.

There is no truth to the other allegations made in the document.

8. Document S/1995/671 of 8 August 1995:

Paragraphs 3, 4 and 9: There were no engineering activities in the area in question.

Paragraph 6: The location mentioned is some 800 metres from the international boundary. There were no armoured units in this area.

Paragraph 7: There were no reconnaissance activities. All that happened was that there was a simple commemoration of the anniversary of the founding of the Baath party on 7 April. This took place some 3 kilometres away from the area of separation.

Paragraph 8: There were no armoured units in the area.

Paragraph 10: The movements were of fishing boats. There were no patrols in the Shatt al-Arab.

Paragraph 15: There were no Iraqi flights whatever inside the aerial exclusion zone.

Paragraph 19: There was no activity by the border forces. Police at the Iraqi Chilat post did not open fire at all.

There is no truth to the other allegations made in the document.

9. Document S/1995/753 of 30 August 1995:

Paragraph 2: There were no engineering activities by our units in the area. All that happened was that small channels were cut by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Paragraphs 9, 18, 19 and 20: The movements were those of civilian fishing boats only. There were no patrols in the Shatt al-Arab.

Paragraph 10: There were no Iraqi flights whatever inside the aerial exclusion zone.

Paragraph 27: There was no movement in the area in question other than by civilian farmers and herdsmen.

There is no truth to the other allegations.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative